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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

FOR S/SECC TODD STERN AND DSECC JONATHAN PERSHING
ALSO FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/RA, EEB/ESC/IEC/ENR, AND OES
AMMAN FOR ESTH HUB OFFICER (BHALLA)

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [SENV](#) [ECON](#) [PGOV](#) [AE](#)
SUBJECT: UAE CONTINUES TO BEAT IRENA DRUM

REF: ABU DHABI 329 AND PREVIOUS

Sensitive but unclassified; please protect accordingly.

11. (SBU) Keeping a top UAEG priority front and center, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Anwar Gargash stressed for the Ambassador April 13 how much effort the UAEG continues to put into its campaign to host the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). He said most of his time during Istanbul meetings associated with the Dialogue of Civilizations was dedicated to bilateral lobbying for IRENA. Foreign Minister Abdullah is planning a series of trips to Africa to lobby; the initial trip may cover six or seven countries between April 18-22 (a "50/50" chance the trip would happen), followed by subsequent visits to reach out to the "large voting block" of African states.

12. (SBU) Gargash highlighted the arguments he said were resonating internationally in favor of the UAE hosting IRENA: 1) it is time to have an international agency hosted in the region, 2) the UAEG's commitment to renewable energy -- and getting beyond a hydrocarbon society -- is clear with the Masdar initiative, etc., and 3) UAEG hosting of IRENA would give the Israeli delegation, as IRENA members, access to visas and constitute a step forward in normalizing of relations.
OLSON